AS:mln

Kennedy, John F.
4-1

MEMORANDUM

March 12, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Arlen Specter

SUBJECT: Interview of FBI Agents Present at Autopsy

On March 12, 1964, I interviewed Special Agents Francis X. O'Neill and James W. Sibert in my office from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

SA O'Neill and SA Sibert advised that the autopsy surgeons made substantial efforts to determine if there was a missile in President Kennedy's body to explain what happened to the bullet which apparently entered the back of his body. They stated that the opinion was expressed by both Commander Humes and Lt. Col. Finck that the bullet might have been forced out of the back of the President's body upon application of external heart massage. They stated that this theory was advanced after SA Sibert called the FBI laboratory and talked to SA Killion who advised that a bullet had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. SA Sibert relayed that information to the doctors.

SA O'Neill and Sibert advised that they did not recall any discussion of the theory that the bullet might have been forced out of the body by external cardiac massage until after SA Sibert reported the finding of the bullet on the stretcher; however, neither agent could conclusively rule out the possibility that such a hypothesis was advanced prior to that time, but each expressed the opinion that he thought that theory was expressed after information was obtained about the bullet on the stretcher. SA Sibert advised that he made no notes during the autopsy. SA O'Neill stated that he made only a few notes, which he destroyed after his report was dictated. SA O'Neill advised that he is sure that his notes would not have shown when the Doctors expressed the thought that the bullet might have been forced out by external heart massage, in relation to the time that they learned of the presence of the bullet on the Parkland Hospital stretcher.

I also questioned SA Sibert and SA O'Neill about their interviews of ASAIC Kellerman and SA Greer on the portions of the FBI report which Kellaher and Greer have repudiated.

SAs Sibert and O'Neill stated that they interviewed SAs Kellerman and Greer formally on November 27, 1963, and talked to them only informally at the autopsy. SA O'Neill stated that he is certain that he had a verbatim note on Kellerman's statement that the President said "Get me to a hospital" and also that Mrs. Kennedy said "Oh, no." SA O'Neill stated that he was

were those were direct quotes from Kellerman because O'Neill used quotation marks in his report which indicated that he had written those precise words in his notes, which notes have since been destroyed after the report was dictated. SA O'Neill noted that Mr. Kellerman did not repeat that language in the interview of November 27, 1963, and that in the later interview O'Neill took down what Kellerman said without leading or directing him in any way.

I also asked the two Special Agents about the language in their reports that Greer glanced around and noticed that the President had evidently been hit and thereafter got on the radio and communicated with the other vehicles, stating that they "desired to get the President to the hospital immediately." SAs O'Neill and Sibert advised that to the best of their recollection SA Greer told them just that, but they probably did not make any notes on these comments since their conversation with Greer was an informal one at the time of the autopsy and they did not have an opportunity to make extensive notes in accordance with their normal interviewing procedures.

Dictated from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon